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Solemne Ingagement
of the Armie, under the
Command of his Excellency
Sr. THOMAS FAIRFAX:

With
A Declaration of their Resolutions
as to disbanding :

And a brief Vindication of their Principles and
Intentions, in relation to diverse scan-
dalous things suggested
against them.

Read, assented unto, and subscribed by all the
Officers and Souldiers of the severall
Regiments, at the Generall
Rendezvous near
Newmarket

JUNE 5. 1647.

RB.23. a 17780. (2)



W Hereas upon the Petition intended and agreed upon in the Army in March last, to have been presented to the Generall, for the obtaining onely of our due and necessary concernments as Souldiers; the Honourable House of Commons, being unreasonably prepossess'd with a copy thereof, and (as by the sequel we suppose) with some strange misrepresentations of the carriage and intention of the same, was induced to send down an Order for suppressing the Petition, and within two or three dayes after upon further mis-informations and scandalous suggestions of the like or worse nature, and by the indirect practise of some malicious and mischievous persons (as we suppose) surprizing or otherwise abusing the Parliament, a Declaration was published in the name of both Houses, highly censuring the said Petition, and declaring the Petitioners (if they should proceed thereupon) no lesse then enemies to the State, and disturbers of the Publick Peace: And whereas at the same time and since, diverse eminent Officers of the Army have been brought into question and trouble about the said Petition, whereby both they and the rest of the Officers were disabled or discouraged for the time, from further acting or appearing therein on the Souldiers behalf: And whereas by the aforesaid proceedings and the effects thereof, the Souldiers of this Army (finding themselves so stopped in their due and regular way, of making known their just grievances and desires to and by their Officers) were enforced to an unusuall (but

in that case necessary) way of correspondence and agreement amongst themselves, to choose out of the severall Troops and Companies, severall men, and those out of their whole number to choose two or more for each Regiment, to act in the names and behalves of the whole Souldiery of the respective Regiments, Troops, and Companies, in the prosecution of their rights and desires in the said Petition; as also of their just vindication and righting in reference to the aforesaid proceedings upon and against the same, who have accordingly acted and done many things to those ends; all which the souldiery do own and approve as their own Acts: And whereas afterwards (upon the sending down of Field-Marshal *Skippon*, and those other Officers of the Army that were members of the House of Commons, to quiet distempers in the Army) fresh hopes being conceived, of having our grievances and desires again admitted to be made known and considered in a regular way, and without such mis-representations as formerly, the Officers and Souldiers of the Army (except some few dissenting Officers) did again joyn in a representation of their common grievances, and the Officers (except as before) did agree upon a Narrative Account of the grounds, rise, and growth of the discontents in the Army, and their proceedings in relation thereunto, with an Overture of the best expedients to remove or satisfie the same; both which were presented to the said Members of the House, and from them reported to the House: And whereas the Parliament, having thereupon voted and ordered some particulars onely towards satisfaction of our grievances, hath since proceeded to certain resolutions of sudden disbanding the Army by pieces, which resolutions being taken, and to be executed before full or equall satisfaction given to the whole Army in any of the grievances, before effectuell performance of that satisfaction in part, which the preceding Votes seemed to promise (as to some of the grievances) and before

before any consideration at all of some others most materiall (as by the results of a generall Councell of warre on Saturday, May 29. was in generall declared, and is now more fully remonstrated in particulars, by a representation thereof agreed upon by us all) we cannot but look upon the said resolutions of disbanding us in such manner, as proceeding from the same malicious and mischievous principles and intentions, and by the like indirect practices of the same persons, (abusing the Parliament and us) as the former proceedings against us before mentioned did, and not without cruell and bloody purposes (as some of them have not stuck to declare or intimate) after the body of the Army should be disbanded, or the Souldiers divided from their Officers ; then to question, proceed against, and execute their malicious intentions, upon all such particular Officers and Souldiers in the Army, as had appeared to act in the premises in behalf of the Army : And whereas upon a late petition to the Generall from the Agitators in behalf of the Souldiery, (grounded upon the preceeding considerations, relating to the said resolutions of disbanding; the said generall Councell of Warre to prevent the danger and inconveniences of these disturbances, or tumultuous actings or confluences, (which the dissatisfactions and jealousies (thereupon also grounded) were like suddenly to have produced in the Army, did advise the Generall first to contract the quarters of the Army, and then to draw the same to an orderly Rendezvouze for satisfaction of all, and that his Excellency would immediately send up to move and desire the Parliament to suspend any present proceedings upon the said resolutions of disbanding, to resume the consideration of the grievances and desires sent up from the Army, and not to disband it in pieces, before just and equall satisfaction given to the whole : And whereas some of the Regiments appointed for disbanding upon notice thereof, withdrawn themselves from their quarters adjacent to their appointed

ted Rendezvouze and drawing towards the head quarters, and the rest contracting their quarters by order (according to the said advice of the Councell of Warre) we the Officers and Souldiers of the severall Regiments hereafter named, are now met at a generall Rendezvouze, and the Regiments appointed as aforesaid to be disbanded have not appeared, nor can appear, but are rather resolved not to appear at the severall and respective Rendezvouzes, appointed as aforesaid for their disbanding, & divers other things have been done by severall other parties or members of the Army necessarily relating to the good and concernment of the whole in these affairs. Now forasmuch as we know not, how far the malice, injustice, and tyannicall principles of our enemies, that have already prevailed so far to abuse the Parliament and the Army, as is afore mentioned in the past proceedings against the Army, may farther prevail to the danger or prejudice of our selves, or any Officers, or Souldiers of the Army, or other persons that have appeared to act any thing in the behalf of the Army, or how far the same may farther prevail to the danger or prejudice of the Kingdome, in raising a new warre or otherwise: Therefore, for the better prevention of all such dangers, prejudices, or other inconveniences that may ensue, and withall for the better satisfaction of the Parliament and Kingdome concerning our desires of conforming to the authority of the one, and providing for the good and quiet of the other, in the present affair of disbanding, and for a more assured way, whereby that affair may come to a certain issue (to which purposes, we herein humbly implore the continued presence and assistance of God the righteous Judge of all) the Officers and Souldiers of the Army subscribing hereunto, do hereby declare, agree, and promise, to and with each other, and to and with the Parliament and Kingdome, as followeth;

First, That we shall chearfully and readily disband, when there-

thereunto required by the Parliament ; or else shall (many of us) be willing (if desired) to ingage in further service either in England or Ireland ; having first such satisfaction to the Army in relation to our grievances and desires heretofore presented ; and such security, that we our selves when disbanded, & in the condition of private men, or other the free born people of England (to whom the consequence of our case does equally extend) shall not remain subject to the like oppression, injury, or abuse, as in the premises hath been attempted, and put upon us while an Army, by the same mens continuance in the same credit and power, (especially if as our Judges) who have in those past proceedings against the Army so farre prevailed to abuse the Parliament and us, and to endanger the Kingdome ; and also such security, that we our selves or any members of the Army, or other who have appeared to act any thing in behalf of the Army, in relation to the premises before recited, shall not after disbanding, be any way questioned, persecuted, troubled or prejudiced for any thing so acted, or for the entring into, or necessary prosecution of this present agreement, (we say) having first such satisfaction & securities in these things, as shall be agreed unto by a Councell, to consist of those generall Officers of the Army, who have concurred with the Army in the premises, with two Commission Officers and two Souldiers to be chosen for each regiment, who have concurred, or shall concur with us in the premisses ; and in this agreement, or by the major part of such of them who shall meet in councell for that purpose, when they shall be thereunto called by the Generall.

Secondly, That without such satisfaction and security as aforesaid, we shall not willingly disband, or divide, or suffer our selves to be disbanded, or divided. And whereas we find many strange things suggested or suspected to our great prejudice, concerning dangerous principles, interests and designs in this Army (as to the overthrowing of Magistracy, the suppressing
or

or hindering of Presbyterian, the establishing of Independent government, or upholding of a generall licentiousnesse under pretence of liberty of conscience, and many such things) we shall very shortly tender to the Parliament a vindication of the Army from all such scandals to clear our principles in relation thereunto: and in the meantime, we do disavow and disclaim all purpose or designe in our late or present proceedings, to advance or insist upon any such interest, neither would we (if we might and could) advance or set up any one particular party or interest in the Kingdome (though imagined never so much our own) but should much rather study to provide (as far as may be within our sphere or power) for such an establishment of common and equall right, freedome, and safety to the whole, as all might equally partake of, that do not (by denying the same to others, or otherwise) render themselves incapable thereof.

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